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22 July 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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India: Recent Indian Government economic measures, particularly the controversial devaluation of the rupee, are increasing the strains within the ruling Congress Party.

25X1 [redacted] a group of party members, reportedly led by party President Kamaraj and including both left- and right-wing elements, is trying to force Prime Minister Gandhi to replace the two primary architects of the government's current economic policies, Planning Minister Mehta and Agriculture Minister Subramaniam. The dissidents charge the two ministers with bowing to pressures from the US and the World Bank in exchange for economic aid which, in turn, has not yet been forthcoming in the desired amounts.

The criticism by veteran left-wing leaders, such as former defense minister Krishna Menon, is likely to have little effect on Mrs. Gandhi or her cabinet. Potentially more serious for the government, however, is the opposition from Kamaraj. The party president has criticized the devaluation action both because of its probable effect on the already limited purchasing power of the poorer classes and because of the harm it may do to Congress Party prospects in next February's general election.

25X1 It seems unlikely, that Kamaraj will permit his dispute with Mrs. Gandhi to lead to an open split in party ranks in this important pre-election period. He might, however, hope to force a compromise solution on the prime minister in which one of the ministers would be replaced by someone more responsive to his views. [redacted]

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NOTES

It is again rumored in Moscow that Foreign Minister Gromyko will be promoted to a deputy premiership.

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USSR: The Supreme Soviet meeting due to begin on 2 August may effect some type of a reorganization of the Soviet Government. A number of Soviet officials, including the chairman of one of the Supreme Soviet's two chambers, have recently said that there will be "important" ministerial changes at the meeting.

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Cyprus: [President Makarios is contemplating a visit to the US, the UN, and Latin America this fall. The trip would be part of an extensive diplomatic effort aimed at garnering support for the Greek-Cypriot position. Makarios evidently expects the latest Greek-Turkish talks will not arrive at an acceptable solution to the Cyprus problem. Meanwhile, Makarios is continuing his hard line against the Turkish Cypriots, whose rejection of a UN plan to demilitarize the contested Trypimeni area in Cyprus may result in new restrictions on their freedom of movement.

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Venezuela: /A group of Communist guerrillas,

has been infiltrated into Caracas by Douglas Bravo, a proponent of revolution by violence. The group has already netted \$53,000 from two payroll robberies. Twenty or more of the guerrillas have been arrested. As long as the others are at large there is some danger of kidnappings and other terrorist acts similar to those directed at American officials and property in 1963.

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